

workers' ACTION

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All Out July 11th!

SURROUNDED! WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY WILL WIN GRUNWICK FIGHT

The mass picket in support of the Grunwick strike on July 11th must be one of the biggest workers' demonstrations in years.

A really huge turn-out will do three things: it will encourage and strengthen the strikers; it will demoralise the miserable rabble of Tories that are backing Grunwick boss George

Ward, and weaken his hold over the scabs; and it will have a big effect on the Court of Inquiry set up by the Government.

This Monday we will also be showing that two years of peace and poverty under the Social Contract have not wiped out the lessons of working class struggle against the Tories.

We will be demonstrating for trade unionism and working class solidarity, against low wages, against the super-exploitation of women workers and immigrants.

"We call for stoppages of work on the day and for every trade union body to be represented on the picket with its banner"

That was the call from the Grunwick strike committee.

The message is clear: **ALL OUT ON JULY 11th!**

It was the Week of Action four weeks ago that catapulted this strike into the headlines and made it an issue for every worker in the country. The very rapid increase in blacking actions spearheaded by the mag-

nificent determination of the Cricklewood Post Office sorters, emphasised the class-wide importance of the strike.

A month later, Ward admits that the blacking and picketing is "choking out the commercial life of the firm". Fifteen of his scabs deserted to join the strike — the latest in response to the postmen's refusal to knuckle under.

Thus the first Week of Action led to a huge escalation of the battle against Ward, and to continuing actions including the sustained mass picket.

Monday July 11th must also be the take-off point for a further escalation to finish off Ward here and now.

There can be no reliance on the Court of Inquiry, and even less so on the High Court: if the ACAS recommendation is upheld there, that will still not mean the reinstatement of the strikers with full union rights. Nothing short of that will be a victory.

That victory is not far off. The way to win is to spread the blacking, the picketing of the factory and of those chemist shops still acting for Grunwicks, and the action in support of the Grunwick strikers' allies at Cricklewood sorting office.

The example of the Grunwick struggle for trade union rights has strengthened and inspired the working class movement. A victory will be a big blow to all the scabs, the union-bashers and bosses' men. Such a victory will bring other victories in its wake.

Make sure it happens!

THE MAIL WILL STAY BLACKED

"IF THE POSTMEN are prepared to stick their necks out then it must be a just cause".

The words are those of Susan Pitts, who until last week was a Grunwick scab.

Yet the class issues that were unavoidably clear to her were lost on UPW boss Tom Jackson.

This rat did everything he could to get his Cricklewood members to stab the Grun-

wick strike in the back. He manoeuvred to isolate them and then sneered "They're on their own". He directed moral blackmail at them, saying they threatened immense harm to their union. And he tried a patronising put-down, saying they had been carried away by "local feelings" and couldn't see "the wider issues". He has even claimed that the decision to continue the

blacking should not be respected because it was not unanimous.

The arrival of thousands of trade unionists from every part of the country at Grunwicks on Monday morning will show Tom Jackson what the rest of the labour movement thinks about this "local issue"!

In fact, the Cricklewood men have joined the Grun-

wick strikers as heroes of the working class movement in this country. Jackson's assertion "they're on their own" should be thrown back in his face by a tidal wave of solidarity with the Cricklewood men. And such action, especially in those offices still handling Grunwicks' incoming mail, will also put further, and perhaps decisive, pressure on what George Ward calls his "jugular vein"

The conference to re-establish a Troops Out Movement in Britain ended up last weekend (2/3 July) with a display of bureaucratic bullying too reminiscent of the previous Troops Out Movement.

That TOM split because of the organisational knife-wielding of the small clique around Gery Lawless. Now this attempt to rebuild the TOM looks as if it will succeed in rebuilding TOM in all its worst aspects.

The initiators of the conference were the International Marxist Group, the "Committee for a Free Ireland" and Big Flame. The latter two had learned nothing at all from the experience of the previous TOM. They still insisted that a mass Troops Out movement was possible — and would exist now if it weren't for the "sectarianism of the Trotskyist groups" and the "dishonesty of Lawless".

'UNITY'

The IMG idea of how to build the TOM (explained in SC 30-6-77) relies on big national events aimed at opening up the possibility of intervention in the labour movement. Putting "unity" above all else, the IMG adapted this conception to that of Big Flame and the CFI.

The comrades of the Workers' Power group correctly argued the need to base any serious campaign on the labour movement and they emphasised accordingly the need for a "united front" structure against the individual membership structures proposed by the initiators of the conference. Unfortunately in arguing for demands beyond the single focus of Troops Out Now they lent weight to the "old"

UNITED TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT

All the mistakes of the original Troops Out Movement

TOM's view of itself as a semi-party.

Supporters of Workers Action backed the general line of these proposals but disagreed about the question of demands. In a leaflet given out to the conference they argued their position:

Eight years after the troops went into Ireland, there is still no established movement in Britain in solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle.

The Troops Out Movement was originally founded on the premise that it was objectively possible to build a mass movement. The comparison was made with the wars in Vietnam and Algeria. This view, rather than just the undemocratic practices of a few leading members of TOM, lay at the roots of the errors TOM made.

We believe that the whole nature of the war in Ireland and the historic relationship between Ireland and Britain makes it extremely improbable that a mass movement will arise — either spontaneously or under some consciously chauvinist leadership, including that of the labour bureaucracy — to demand the withdrawal of the troops from Ireland.

There are two basic reasons for this:

■ The scale of involvement, minute compared with Vietnam or Algeria; no conscription and

low casualties.

■ The weight of chauvinism within all sectors of British society — including the working class movement.

These factors cannot be overcome by a simple proclamation that a new upsurge in Ireland will bring people into a movement for the withdrawal of the troops.

What follows from this analysis?

Firstly, that there are no short cuts around a long, consistent fight against the imperialist ideas in the British working class, making no concessions to those ideas. This means stating that we stand in solidarity with those fighting against British imperialism in Ireland if we are to be able to explain the real reasons why we want the troops out and what self-determination really means.

SMALL

Secondly, this means taking into account the fact that the initial forces likely to be involved are small and will probably not bring in many outside the forces of the revolutionary left, the Irish political organisations and those influenced by them.

We believe that this means making work in the labour movement the number one priority of any solidarity movement. This is not to say that other work (eg work with stud-

ents or anti-recruitment work) should be abandoned or forbidden; rather that work in the labour movement must be decisive in determining our activities.

This work cannot just be put on a par with other areas of work, with branches and individuals seeing it as an optional extra. In line with this we propose a particular structure.

We hold this position because in the final analysis it is only the working class which has either an interest in or the power to make a major contribution to forcing British imperialism out of Ireland.

This involves work around trade union branches, trades councils, Labour Parties etc., at a local level but also national initiatives such as the Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland. For the next period, we propose the call for a Tribunal on the War in Ireland. We would lay the emphasis on winning support for it in the labour movement, rather than tactics simply designed to win wider publicity.

We feel it necessary for revolutionaries to say explicitly that they support those Republican and socialist forces fighting in Ireland to drive the British Army out. The alternatives are two: to say in a quiet voice: "Well of course we really do think that and we'll tell everyone some time in the future" (essentially a manipulative approach); or giving in to chauvinism by dissociating oneself from the Republicans when the issue is raised.

However, we are prepared to work in campaigns which do not have this position as long as they are genuine united fronts. This means several things: that we undertake activity on an agreed political basis; that we are able to represent and fight for our own position and that we have a part in deciding what the campaign will do.

Faced with the task of starting afresh in building a movement,

we propose a completely different type of united front campaign (different from the way TOM was organised in the past, on the basis of individual members), structured and guided by the need for unity in action by people and organisations which have widely differing analyses of the situation in Ireland.

We do not accept that the two demands of Troops Out Now and 'Self determination for Ireland as a whole' are the only basis on which this could be done. The demand for self-determination was originally introduced to differentiate from other people who were calling on a nationalistic basis for the troops to be withdrawn. It has not been useful for that purpose because it has little meaning outside the left and several different ones within it.

We therefore believe it is possible to build a perfectly principled campaign around the demand Troops Out Now, as long as it is a genuine united front and one where one can argue different conceptions of what that means within a common plan of action at a particular time. And Troops Out Now does provide a clear basis for a United Front which can also take initiatives on other connected issues if there is agreement.

ROTTEN

Workers' Action supporters and a few others see these as important issues to be debated. Unfortunately, the chairperson and the IMG-BF-CFI bloc saw to it that "debate" was dominated by procedural wrangling as they manoeuvred and manipulated the course of the conference.

Domination of the new "movement", United (!) Troops Out Movement by this rotten bureaucratic bloc ensures that it will prove at least as miserable a failure as the "old" TOM. Workers Action supporters felt that participation in that "movement" could only lend a certain added weight to a grouping doomed to commit all the mistakes of the past in TOM. Workers Action supporters will therefore not take part in it — though that decision is taken with regret, for it cannot be denied that a strong anti-imperialist movement focussing on the question of British domination of the North of Ireland is vitally necessary.

A MONOPOLY OF SHOP STEWARDS

Revolutionaries in France face a series of problems in the unions and in the factories which do not exist in Britain. The recent elections for delegates (shop stewards) at the Chausson car factories at Gennevilliers, Paris, and the debate they have caused between the two major Trotskyist organisations, Lutte Ouvriere and the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, illustrate these problems.

Chausson Gennevilliers has traditionally been a stronghold of the Communist Party. Over the years, however, Lutte Ouvriere has gained a certain implantation there; the LCR now also has a small presence. During a major dispute in 1975, LO militants played a leading role on the strike committee.

Since the strike, the CP has systematically set out to isolate the LO militants and the other leaders of the strike committee — using in particular the law of 1945 which governs the election of delegates.

According to the law, the recognised unions — and only the recognised unions — can present lists of candidates for the delegates' positions in the works. The workers — all the workers, not just the union members — then vote for one list or another, and the delegates' seats are allotted proportionately.

Before this year's delegate elections came up, the CP-controlled union, the CGT, had

already expelled the two LO delegates elected on its lists last year. The CGT thus refused to put them on its list this year. 650 out of 1000 workers in factory "H" signed a petition demanding that the two militants be put on the delegates' lists. The CP replied with two leaflets violently attacking the LO delegates.

The other unions in the factory — CFDT and FO — likewise refused to put the two delegates on their lists. The only possibility open under the law was then a call for abstention. If more than 50% of the workers abstain in the vote for delegates then a second round is held in which the trade union monopoly of candidates is relaxed.

If the elections had been in "H" alone, a call for abstention might have worked. But for the elections "H" was grouped together with another Gennevilliers factory — "G" — and the Villeneuve works; there was little chance of getting a majority of abstentions.

The LO comrades decided not to campaign for abstention, but simply to point out in their factory bulletin that workers wishing to protest against the bureaucratic rigging of the elections could do so by abstaining.

The LCR interpreted this as a call for abstention, and replied by issuing a leaflet calling on workers to vote for the CGT or the CFDT. Although the 1945 law is inferior to a genuine shop

stewards system, within the present context the trade union monopoly on delegates' lists is — so the LCR argue — something positive, to be defended. It erects a barrier against the development and reinforcement of company unions or fascist 'unions'.

In any case, the LCR say, what perspectives does the call for abstention open up? Are the LO trying to present themselves as an alternative union to the CGT and the CFDT?

LO replies that the LCR's position amounts to passive acceptance of the trade unions' bureaucratism; and that, anyway, a campaign for abstention and 'free candidates' is sometimes the only way to force the unions to accept LO militants into membership.

And the results of the elections: the CGT's vote dropped 6% in "H" and the abstention rate increased 9%. Overall the CGT lost 2%, the CFDT 1% and FO gained 3%. The CGT still has the majority of delegates' positions, although the new lists include no delegate in the shops represented by the two LO comrades, and although the CGT now has no more than a few dozen members in "H".

The dead weight of the law and of its bureaucratic apparatus can preserve the CP's domination for a long time. But not for ever.

COLIN FOSTER



Who's leading the trade union leaders?

THE ripples from the Grunwick strike are spreading wider and wider. The Court of Inquiry has been established by the Government in an effort to de-fuse the situation. The strike is a major issue in parliament, with repercussions for both Labour and Tory parties.



Almost certainly this enormous momentum would not have been possible if the strike had not more or less from the start received the support of the official trade union movement.

Of course, this hasn't been the driving force behind the increasingly bolder tactics of the strike. But the paradox is that though the officials of APEX and other unions have done what they could to cool the situation, without their endorsement whole sections of workers would not have been drawn in.

The lessons to be drawn are in many ways the lessons of the fight against *In Place of Strife* and the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

Then too it was official support for the campaign that enabled rank and file trade union activists to take up the fight and go beyond the officials themselves. The interaction between that official support, which was forced to back more and more militant action, and militant rank and file activity led to a great surge of working class action.

At that period there were massive demonstration-strikes, and the start of sit-in strikes, flying pickets and mass pickets and finally a rolling strike to free the Pentonville Five.

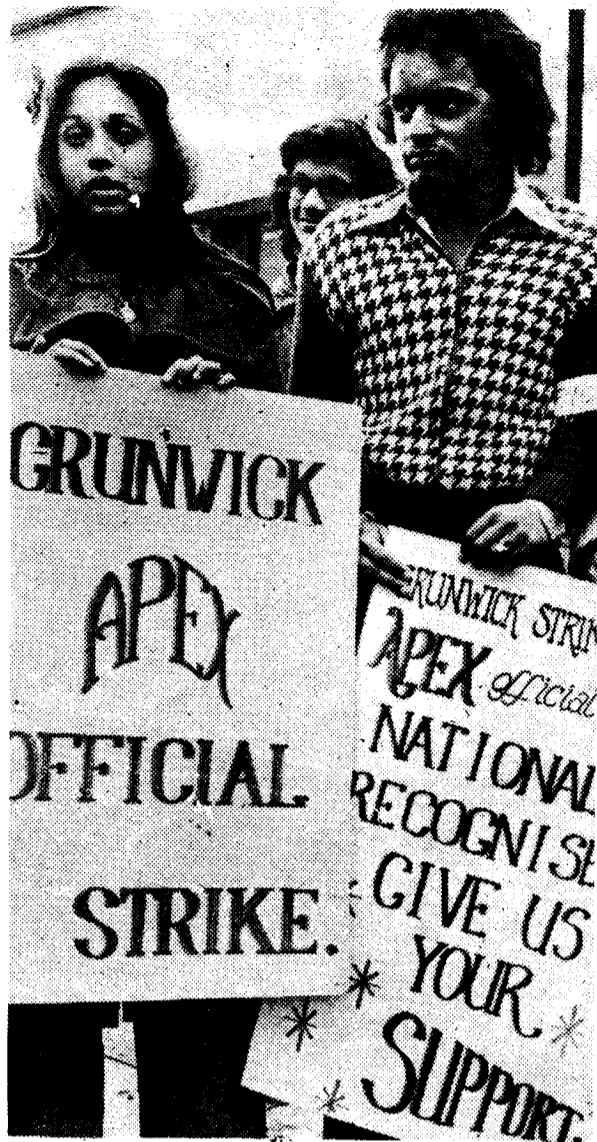


But why now, with Labour so precariously in power, did the official movement take up a strike like this?

Of course, they had no idea that it would ever have political repercussions. For the very reasons that it threatens to harm Labour — by showing up as hollow the laws Labour passed as its side of the Contract — the TUC tops wanted Ward defeated.

And there was another reason. The support of the Union officialdom for the Grunwick strike can be understood as a Union attempt at "race management".

A number of trade unions,



and by implication the whole movement, took a lot of stick for the failure to handle situation like Mansfield Hosiery and Imperial Typewriters. From their point of view Grunwick didn't involve the same sort of problems: internal racist practices were not the main issue, there was no large force of white scabs existing side by side with the strikers in the same Union (or any union) and no local officials would be "compromised".



It ought to have been easy. The trade union movement should have come out of it well with no great fuss. ACAS, in whose arthritic hands the union put the case, should have emerged with glory.

But George Ward just hung on...

So APEX had to hang on too. If it was to manage this strike effectively it had to win. So it paid a high level of strike pay and helped spread the strike further. The trades council also played an important part in spreading the strike, and the chain of effect ran from Brent Trades Council to the Greater London Association of Trades Councils to the South East Region of the TUC.

All the time the official backing of the union, the energetic actions of the strike committee and their supporters and the support of other official trade union bodies interacted, each reinforcing the other.

With the calling of the mass picket a new stage was entered. Now the rank and file support for the strikers, the new mood of sympathy for them, had created a situation in which the post office sorters felt strong enough to ignore their Union's instruction and black Grunwick's mail.

The hundreds on the mass picket and the mass support they signified were the sorters' answer to Post Office and UPW threats.

Though APEX General Secretary Roy Grantham appealed for only (!) 500 arm-banded pickets, three times that number turned up; the armbands were simply torn up when the strike committee refused to wear them. The union was still backing the action but each step it took to keep the struggle under control made it easier for those who wanted to fight rather than to manage the dispute to escalate the struggle.

Meanwhile, police action contributed to the dynamic. Even last Friday, after the Court of Inquiry had been announced the day before, arrests at the picket ensured that APEX did not, as Booth expected it to, call off the mass picketing.



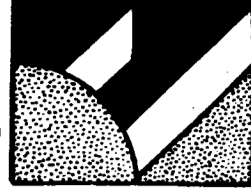
On Monday July 11th this initially small strike will be the centre of a huge working class mobilisation which will give rank and file trade unionists at least a hint of what would be possible if the trade union bureaucracy were to side with workers (or even lead them...) in the class struggle.

Vital too will be the fact that tens of thousands of white male British trade unionists — usually expressing "common sense" racism and chauvinism — will have taken a stand on the side of workers most of whom are Asian women. The class issues of sweated labour, low pay and trade union recognition will, at least here, have broken through the stinking haze of racism and nationalism that so often obscures working class interests.

ALAN CARTER

UNIONS TEAR UP LIB-LAB PACT

Editorial



Last week's decisions by the TGWU Conference commits nearly two million votes against any hold-up in a return to free collective bargaining at the September TUC Conference.

And because of TGWU delegates' determination to reject their Executive's pay formula which would have bound the union to observing the "12-month rule" between claims, the Government's pay policy may already be in shreds by the time that Conference meets.

Having conceded that there could be no justification for another round of pay curbs like the last two, the TGWU Executive, in line with a decision already taken by the TUC leaders, staked everything on trying to prevent a situation whereby August 1st sees a great torrent of wage claims.

The Executive, and not least of course Jack Jones himself, appealed to conference to remain loyal to the Labour Government, to safeguard the pact with the Liberals and not to hand over Britain's champagne future to Margaret Thatcher. A repeat performance of Callaghan's ridiculous speech on the previous weekend: incomes policy plus North Sea Oil equals socialism...



The NUM conference at Tynemouth commits less TUC votes, but its result is no less disturbing for the Government, despite right wing manoeuvres.

On the eve of the debate on pay, NUM leader Joe Gormley attacked militants for putting forward "excessive" pay demands. "I do not think this is an honourable way for a strong union like ours to be conducting its affairs" he said, directing his attack against the the £110 claim supported by the Scottish, Yorkshire, Kent and South Wales delegations.

But if anything is dishonourable it is the way the idea of the pay "target" as distinct from the pay claim has been used by him and the NUM right wing. It is a tactic that only suits those who are not prepared to mobilise the workforce for something definite. And in order to get it carried, the "target" was a great deal more "excessive" (his word, not ours!) than the claim.

Thus the £135 "target" that was adopted does not commit the union to anything in particular now.

But the right wing suffered a heavy blow when the productivity scheme they'd been pushing was rejected.

This scheme would have brought a massive rift in the miners' unity, allowing more productive areas, with easier seams or better equipment, to get substantial benefits and become a bulwark of union conservatism.

One other aspect of the NUM decisions must be worrying the government a good deal this week.

Believing that the productivity scheme would be accepted, it was set down to start from August, to provide extra money in miners' pockets and soften the fight for the basic claim when the time comes for it in March. Having broken the 12-month rule with that proposal, the Conference went on to decide overwhelmingly on November rather than March (imposed by the Wilberforce Inquiry in 1972) as the date for the next basic claim.

This means that the NUM are, in any case, committed to not observing the 12-month rule that the TUC will be arguing for. And its refusal to abide by it is likely to trigger off other similar reactions.



Predictably, the Liberals are wild about these two unions' decisions. "Whatever might be the short-term political interest of the Prime Minister and the Labour Party" said their economics spokesman John Pardoe "the Liberal Party is not going to underwrite a pay explosion."

"If need arises we shall fight an election on the need for economic responsibility and we shall face the British people fairly and squarely with the facts of their predicament."

If it becomes clear that Labour will be absolutely useless at holding back a wages "explosion", then the government may be forced out because it will have lost the support of the ruling class. But meanwhile, the industrialists and the City will pressure the Liberals to sit tight and not to jump the gun for their own "short term political interest" before Labour has shown its complete uselessness to them.



The TGWU leaders and other TUC leaders had held out the possibility of a National Minimum Wage in return for a third round of pay curbs. There should be pressure to keep this whatever happens on August 1st.

REVOLUTION BUT NO INSURRECTION?

THE BRITISH ROAD TO SOCIALISM — in this and in all its previous drafts — defines the struggle for democracy in terms of the progressive democratisation of the state.

The idea is that given a clear parliamentary majority for a Left Government, that government could remove this official, promote that officer, reform this regulation and loosen that one — all of which changes will cumulatively amount to a transformation of the role and nature of the state apparatus.

Thus, underlying the idea of the peaceful transition to socialism, we have the idea of the gradual slide towards socialism. As if the resistance of the bourgeoisie can be avoided by inching one's way to socialism to stealthily that by the time they have noticed what's happening it will be too late!

Total

In other words, the strategy of "softly, softly catchee monkey".

No wonder Irene Brennan, CC member of the CPGB, writing in the current issue of the party's monthly journal *Marxism Today*, feels that too much emphasis is put on their gradualism when people are criticising ... the Fabians!

But what of the idea of insurrection, of an uprising of the masses? Quoting Lenin to the effect that "A socialist revolution is not a single act; it is a period of turbulent political and economic changes, of intense class struggle", Brennan tries to confuse her readers by conflating the idea of revolution in the sense that Lenin means it (that is, the total process of transformation from capitalism to socialism with all its national and international ramifications) with the idea of insurrection (that is, the means by which the oppressed masses become the ruling

political forces).

This confusion derives directly from the dismissal of the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The significance she gives the insurrection of October 25th 1917 is clear in her statement that "certain key events take on a symbolic character for the movement — that is only natural — and the storming of the Winter Palace, I suppose, has that sort of symbolic power."

Symbol

It would be hard to find an utterance at once more dismissive, more bureaucratically patronising and more cynically philistine than this. Logically, "I suppose", Brennan thinks that if the storming of the Winter Palace, the insurrection of October 25th 1917, had failed, it would only have meant a little gap in the inspirational catchphrases and images of the revolutionary movement.

Presumably when, on the following day, Lenin announced "We will now proceed to construct the socialist order" he was simply reinforcing the power of the Bolshevik symbols!

Admittedly this is not the same explanation of the October insurrection as that given in the British Road; that document describes it as something "governed by the historic conditions and background of Tsarist autocratic rule". Hardly a convincing explanation in view of the fact that "Tsarist autocratic rule" had been broken already by the time of the October revolution.

All this idiocy, this confusion and sophistry, serves to support the idea that the revolutionary process is full of decisive and qualitative breaks and leaps, some affecting this aspect of social life or that aspect of economic life, but none of them in themselves amounting to an historic watershed.

For Marxists, whose ideas are based on the development of the class struggle and not on the desire to adapt to the more open representatives of reformism in the labour bureaucracy, the dictatorship of the proletariat marks a decisive new historical stage. And the dictatorship, whose task it is to suppress finally the resistance of the capitalists and their allies and to prepare the conditions for socialism, is marked by the fact that the sole organs of legal, of state power are now the organs of the dictatorship of the proletariat — replacing, smashing utterly, the old state power and its organs of bourgeois domination.

What are the new conditions the CPGB constantly refers to to justify its wholesale revision of Marxism on these points?

Firstly there is the assertion that the state today is "a very subtle and extended complex of state institutions' employing millions of wage and salary earners."

Secondly, there is the claim that the balance of

Communist Party draft British Road to Nowhere



Three
false
claims
about
the
state

world forces has changed since Lenin's day.

Thirdly, there is the long tradition of bourgeois democracy in Britain.

Of course the state is complex and extended. It is also true that connected with the state and servicing bourgeois rule there are scores of institutions that deal with the administration of things rather than people. They are the institutions of accounting of the state; they are not its inner essential core, the organs of enforcing bourgeois rule. But this makes no difference: when we speak of smashing the state we mean the organs that enforce bourgeois rule, that embody a monopoly of legal force in bourgeois society



These still have to be smashed, completely destroyed and replaced. The new organs of workers' power would reorganise the servicing and accounting agencies of the old state to fit the conditions and requirements of

the new power. But this is all that can be reorganised rather than smashed.

Once again, the lumping together of different tasks is designed to obscure what has to be done and, in this case, to make the smashing of the state seem absurd by including in it those departments that can be reorganised. (And conversely, it has the effect of making the reorganising of the coercive forces of the state look more plausible by submerging consideration of those forces into the picture of the administrative side.)

The employment of millions in the state apparatus is not very significant, except that the expertise resulting from this will equip the working class in Britain to complete the transition to socialism more quickly than where such expertise is lacking or very confined.

What is far more significant is that the military machine in Britain does not consist of millions of proletarians as it did in Russia and as it does, proportionately, wherever there is

conscription. That makes the task of the destruction of the state for us harder not easier!

The second argument and the third are dismissed by the terrible lessons of the Chilean defeat. Chile also had a long tradition of bourgeois democracy — as the CPC constantly reminded its audience.



The question of the balance of world forces is in any case a mistaken argument as these can change rapidly. A glaring example of this is given by the following quotation in which John Gollan, then General Secretary of the CPGB, looked at the "favourable balance of world forces" in 1965: "In Greece, the Karamanlis Government has been defeated by the electoral victory of the left and centre forces. Tony Ambatielos and the Greek democratic leaders imprisoned for 17 years have been released. New possibilities of democ-

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End of Chile's peaceful road

atic advance are opening up in Greece."

How the "new possibilities" actually materialised is now well known: the Papandreu government which had replaced Karamnlis was deposed by the King and in April 1967 the colonels' coup submitted Greece once again to the iron heel of military dictatorship.

Tony Ambatielos was jailed again as were "the Greek democratic leaders imprisoned for 17 years". In the meantime, of course, the **British Road to Socialism's** view of the balance of forces did not change one whit, and, therefore, neither did its conclusions.

The third argument is not serious for the long democratic traditions of Chile and — even more so — Britain do not exist in Spain whose Communist Party's programme is, if anything, even more gradualist and pacifist than the **British Road**.

But if the bureaucratic divorce between this programme and the class struggle is clear in the failure to learn from the past, it is far more striking in that section which deals with the proposals for the future.

At the centre of a revolutionary programme we should find a system of measures and slogans capable of mobilising the revolutionary classes in the struggle for the seizure of power.

In a volume that the Communist International published to help promote a lively discussion on the question of the programme of the Comintern, Karl Radek wrote in an introduction: "After the course of the world revolution has been not only described but analysed, it will be necessary to set out the means of mobilising the working class for the struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat in the present period of transition."

Such a system of demands should, as Trotsky wrote a decade later, "help the masses in the process of the daily class struggle to find the bridge between the present demands and the socialist programme of revolution"

These measures form a bridge in that they not only provide the focus for the revolutionary mobilisation of the working class against the capitalists but they also provide the first step in the workers' elaboration of their own organs of power and administration.

Among the most important of these measures are the **sliding scale of hours and wages** (which Trotsky called the method of production under socialism); the **abolition of business secrecy and workers' control of production** (both being schools for the planned economy and organisational forms transitional to the management committees of the planned economy); the **workers' militia** (which is both the spearhead of proletarian struggle against the capitalists and also the precursor of the general arming of the proletariat); and the **Soviet**, the organ of the united working class in the struggle against the bourgeoisie and the basic component of the proletarian state.

Organs

Of course this is not an exhaustive list of the slogans of a revolutionary programme. By no means. There are also slogans of **expropriation**, of the institution of a **monopoly of credit by the state** — measures which can only be implemented by government. What is central however is the action of the proletariat itself and the development not only of extra-parliamentary pressure but of extra-parliamentary **organs**.

Revolutionaries try to help the development of this incipient counter-state. In Chile the people's courts and neighbourhood committees in the slums as well as the workers' committees; in Portugal the rank and file soldiers' committees of the SUV and the factory committees — all these were the seedlings of this extra-parliamentary counter-

MOBILISING THE WORKING CLASS

different to the question of government. But they try to link it inextricably to the development of the extra-parliamentary movement, seeing the latter as the determining factor. These excerpts from the programme of the workers' government of Saxony, drafted in 1922, give some idea of how this idea would be concretised:

"The government proposes — ...



Karl Marx

"(7) The police force and its administration to be composed of workers in bona fide trade unions. Establishment of a workers' militia...
"(9) All legislative proposals of interest to the working class to be submitted first to the congresses of workers' delegates and periodic meetings of the state-wide congress of workers' delegates."

Every single proposal of the **British Road** is a measure to be implemented not directly by the self organisation and mobilisation of the working class, but by the Left Government to which the **British Road** preaches complete loyalty.

Rouse

This is not simply a matter of form. The CPGB's approach speaks volumes for its bureaucratic disavowal of all those forms which are likely to rouse the working class. The CPGB's road is, like the Labour Party's, through the ballot box. Its road, in this sense, does not derive from an honest but mistaken perspective for the future struggle but rep-

resents a dogged determination to keep the class struggle as much as possible within those forms that guarantee a largely passive proletariat.

The word "democracy" appears in the **British Road to Socialism** too often to count — and it means almost anything the reader might want to imagine. But one sense in which it is not used (and it is a sense in which

it is reasonable for revolutionaries to talk of democratic struggle) is to refer to a kind of struggle which involves the workers, unites them and enables them to draw in more backward layers.

Taboo

The very idea is taboo to the bureaucratic mind. But this idea is absolutely central for revolutionaries. To return to that pivotal idea of the Soviet again: it is not only an instrument for unifying the workers against bourgeois rule and bourgeois resistance; not only does it represent a rejection of the state as a parasitic bureaucracy; but it is a combination school and workshop of proletarian administration — drawing spiritual inertia fostered by the old state.

Once again the idea is directly related to the revolutionary conception of the withering away of the state (something you won't find mentioned in the **British Road!**) and the establishment for the first time of a real democracy.

This combination of tasks

is set out clearly by Lenin in his "Theses and Report on Bourgeois Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat":

"Only the Soviet organisation of the state can really effect the immediate break-up and total destruction of the old, ie. bourgeois, bureaucratic and judicial machinery, which has been, and has inevitably had to be, retained under capitalism in even the most democratic republics, and which is, in actual fact, the greatest obstacle to the practical implementation of democracy for the workers and working people generally. The Paris Commune took the first epoch-making step along this path. The Soviet system has taken the second.

"Destruction of state power is the aim set by all socialists, including Marx above all. Genuine democracy, liberty and equality is unrealisable unless this aim is achieved. But its practical achievement is possible only through Soviet, or proletarian, democracy, for by enlisting the mass organisations of the working people in constant and unfailing participation in the administration of the state, it immediately begins to prepare the complete withering away of the state."

That is not possible by the route of parliamentary democracy in the bourgeois sense, for "It is the people, who even in the most democratic bourgeois republics, while possessing equal rights by law, have in fact been debarred by thousands of devices from participation in political life and enjoyment of democratic rights and liberties, that are now drawn into constant and unfailing, moreover, decisive, participation in the democratic administration of the state."

Mass

There is hardly a single person who does not see that the vast mass of working people in this society feel atomised and impotent. This impotence is compounded, re-inforced and exploited by the exercise of power by the few. How is this feeling dispelled? Partly, at least, by those great mobilisations and collective actions in which workers discover their dignity and power. A party which seeks to limit those mobilisations and actions and to re-inforce the "leave it to the tops" apathy that one finds so often is a party which is out to rob the proletariat of its dignity and power. It is out to block the development of its consciousness.

The **British Road to Socialism** is, in this sense, just another thoroughly undemocratic programme; structuring and minimising the active control over its own fate by the proletariat in just the same way that has proved so useful to the bourgeoisie.

For the CPGB, after all, socialism is not the self-emancipation of the working class but the system under which a powerful bureaucracy can derive privileges from their stifling of the struggle of the working class for its interests.

Frantic efforts to push Beynon Bill through

Desperate efforts are being made to get William Beynon's restrictive Abortion Bill through this session of Parliament.

The Bill's Parliamentary Committee — which is 9 to 7 in favour of the anti-abortion Bill — has passed a motion to sit for 60 hours a week in order to ensure that it gets through its Committee Stage against the filibustering of the seven anti-Bill MPs.

In addition, 192 MPs have been persuaded to sign a petition in favour of a third reading of the Bill this session.

This Bill can only have the effect of forcing thousands of women a year to bear unwanted children or face up to an illegal and dangerous backstreet abortion.

The Abortion Law Reform Association is organising a mass lobby of Parliament on Tuesday 12th July, starting at 3pm (assemble St. Stephen's Gate).

The National Abortion Campaign is calling an emergency public meeting on July 15th at 7.30pm at Central Hall, Westminster.

THE agreement we reprint below is the one foisted on Ford workers at Dagenham at the end of their recent action for 80% lay off pay. The agreement, which was arrived at between the Dagenham Panel (District Officials and convenors) and management makes no concession to the strikers' demand. Instead it provides for new dispute and disciplinary procedures and a stepping up of mobility.

NO PAY

The basic thrust of the agreement is to break the power of the shop floor and the shop stewards while strengthening the power of the District and Regional Officials. In this sense it has a lot in common with the moves towards corporate bargaining which we described some weeks ago in relation to Leyland (Longbridge).

Instead of offering money for periods of lay-off, all Ford management have agreed to do is introduce a procedure which might eliminate some of the causes of lay off. Point one of this 13-point plan is very clear about the new procedure.

What it says is that a "hold on action" will be established in the period of the "hold on action" work will be guaranteed. That's all. If the dispute is not settled within 24 hours (in the case of a suspension) or 48 hours (in the case of a sacking) and workers take action to defend somebody under threat, there will be no pay for any lay-off so caused.

'GUILTY'

Strictly speaking it's worse than that. Because the last sentence of Point 1 actually means that whether or not the threatened worker is

FORD AGREEMENT: Union Officials to police shop floor

by John Bloxam

"innocent" he will be judged to be "guilty" if his mates take action to support him.

As far as management is concerned this is great. They will get fewer disruptions of production, and they will only be paying out when there is no disruption! Lay-off pay as such doesn't come into it. That is made abundantly clear by point six. This just makes suspensions and sackings easier for management. Now they can do it and penalise the workers for

offering any resistance.

Fords are relying on trade union officials to sort out any problems. By putting matters in their hands they hope to weaken shop floor power and rank and file militancy. The officials are to become the real disciplinary power, policing the shop floor to keep production moving.

Because keeping the line

moving is the company's real concern, the agreement sneaks in a few clauses on mobility. Point 7 is the crucial section; there it says that "in the event of unexpected absence during shift ... employees are required to cover." And this is an order — any argument and you will be taken "off pay".

This remaining agreement is going to be a big bonus to management both in keeping work moving and in breaking up the work-

In putting forward a claim for no lay offs on the Dagenham Estate up to the end of the current agreement, the Dagenham Panel of Officers stated that the present situation on the Dagenham Estate, where employees were seeking better lay off protection, was not only likely to continue but also liable to re-occur on a regular basis unless arrangements were made by both the Company and the Trade Unions which would prevent lay offs.

The Company stated that they were not prepared to enter into one-sided guaran-

tees and the Trade Unions responded that they did not expect the Company to do so. They said however that for the purpose of resolving the current dispute the Trade Unions were proposing that there should be a "no lay off" bridging agreement up to the end of the current National Agreement and that they would be prepared to enter into binding commitments with the Company in return for "no lay off" undertakings.

The Company accepted the principle provided the following detailed points were agreed:

- 1). An agreement is to be negotiated in detail within each plant which establishes a "hold on action" of one clear shift in the event of a suspension and two clear shifts in the event of a dismissal. The penalty to be implemented in the event of industrial action.
- 2). As a result of (1) above the Trade Unions accepted that the terms of the Blake/Mitchell letters dated October 1975 to the Dagenham Body Plant are inoperative whilst the terms of the foregoing clause are adhered to.
- 3). In order to avoid disputes arising from Management initiated action which could lead to lay offs the District Officials will be called in following a failure to agree at Stage 4. They guarantee to get in within 24 hours from the time they or their office are notified and pending this, action by either side will be held over in accordance with the Procedure Agreement.
- 4). In the event of a problem arising on nightshift from Management initiated action which necessitates District Official involvement as stipulated above, the Company will notify the District Official or his office first thing the following morning. They guarantee to get in within 24 hours of notification. During the dayshift attempts will continue at Plant level to resolve the problem but if it is not resolved the District Officials will come into the Plant within the time period. Pending this, action by either side will be held over in accordance with the Procedure Agreement.
- 5). If a District Official of the appropriate Union is not available another Official will be contacted by the Trade Union Liaison Officer to deal with an issue subject to a steward of the appropriate union being with him.
- 6). In the event of the District Officials being advised of an issue and then failing to achieve a continuation of normal working by the end of the appropriate shift or rota shift following that in which the incident occurred the terms of this agreement could be invalidated.
- 7). Reaffirm existing Agreements and Understandings or mobility and/or remaining at start of shift. In addition it is agreed that in the event of unexpected absence during shift e.g. a man reporting to medical or non return after lunch, employees are to be required to cover his job. All employees are to give continued co-operation in ensuring such mobility. In the event of a continued refusal the employee may be taken "off pay", subject to the provisions of paragraph 8 below, and any supporting employee action will be regarded as an employee initiated dispute and paragraph 13 below will apply.
- 8). No individual employee will be taken off pay for any reason without the prior involvement of a shop steward, providing such involvement is not refused or avoided, and a meeting with his Foreman and/or General Foreman.
- 9). Informal agreements on mobility should be recorded so that all parties are aware of the situation.
- 10). Failure by employees to achieve work standards will be dealt with under the Work Standards Agreement. No action will be taken by the Company until the Work Standards Agreement is exhausted (including involvement of District Officials).
- 11). Company initiated manning reductions and process changes will be handled under the Work Standards Agreement as above.
- 12). Day-to-day modifications to the process or prescribed method will not be covered by the Work Standards Agreement but will be handled in accordance with (1) above.
- 13). With regard to employee initiated disputes JWC members will be immediately involved with a view to achieving normal working while the grievance is pursued through the Procedure including the involvement of District Officials. Providing the terms of this agreement are adhered to the no lay off guarantee will apply, but in the event of such disputes Management will advise the appropriate District Official or his office when it appears that such a situation could be developing.

IT was agreed that should the undertakings contained in this document be broken by either side, both parties reserve the right to withdraw from the arrangement following 5 working days' notice to the signatories to this mutual undertaking, subject to a meeting within that period of the signatories

Nothing in this undertaking precludes existing local agreements related to the clauses of the undertaking which are agreed by both Plant Management and Trade Unions as being more appropriate to local conditions. This undertaking in no way cancels or alters any of the National Agreements existing between the Company and the Trade Unions.

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UNITED AGAINST RACIALISM MANCHESTER TUC

DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY WITH NATIONAL SPEAKERS
SATURDAY JULY 9th
ASSEMBLE 12.00 - 1.30
GREAT DUCIE STREET
CAR PARK
STRANGWAYS
MARCH TO
WHITWORTH PARK
RALLY 3.30



Pickets out in the lay-off pay strike

force by moving the militants round a lot. Under present conditions, with a lot of jobs vacant (PTA average 800 short) this clause gives management carte blanche to move people around at will.

Again the object is to smash the organised power of the shop floor.

Nor will it be possible for a worker to claim that any change in work methods or practice shouldn't be seen as a precedent. Point 9 makes it clear that "informal agreements" are to be formalised.

This agreement, then, goes no way to meeting the demand for 80% lay-off pay. It guarantees not a penny lay-off pay. It simply provides for a "hold on action" to keep production moving for a short period. Of course, lay-offs could be cut out altogether by forcing workers to produce at gunpoint! Every problem has its "management solution" — and this agreement is one of those.

SPLIT

What is needed is an agreement that doesn't act as a brake on shop floor resistance to management's moves, but one which simply guarantees basic pay (full pay too!) where there

are lay-offs. By turning the argument round and making the fight for lay-off pay look like a fight against actions leading to lay-offs, management, union officials and the convenors have split the workforce between first parties (directly involved in a dispute) and second parties (those supporting the person involved) on the one hand, and third parties (those not involved except in that they stand to be laid off).

FOISTED

If Ford workers let that happen, they will be breaking up the unity that the recent actions showed can be created between all plants on the estate.

We are publishing this agreement in full so that Ford workers can see what has been foisted on them. Copies of the agreement only went out to shop stewards — in some cases after the mass meetings (eg the June 27th Body Plant meeting) that approved it. As it is obviously an important agreement, every Ford worker should have been able to read it through thoroughly before voting. At least now it will be possible to read it through before being clobbered by it.

workers' ACTION

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BASINGSTOKE, BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, CHELMSFORD, CHESTER, COVENTRY, EDINBURGH, HUDDERSFIELD, LEICESTER, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, MANCHESTER, MIDDLESBROUGH, NEWCASTLE, NEWTOWN, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, READING, ROCHDALE, SHEFFIELD, STAFFORD, STOKE.

Write for details of meetings and activities to:
WASG, 49 Carnac Street, London SE27

42 pickets arrested at Darlington NUJ strike

by Jim Courtney

FOLLOWING the arrest of 25 pickets outside the offices of North of England Newspapers in Darlington last Friday, the 108-strong NUJ chapel have called for a day of action on July 15th.

Friday's arrests bring to 42 the total number hauled away by police since the dispute began five weeks ago. Included have been the NUJ's Vice President, two full-time organisers (one arrested twice) and one member of the Union's NEC.

Following one confrontation between pickets and police, the Mayor of Darlington called for an inquiry into the behaviour of the police. The local police chief has now announced they will conduct an 'internal inquiry', which is likely to make all the difference!

Journalists are not normally known for their combativity on the picket lines, but in the last year a number of disputes have erupted over the question of the closed shop — or, more precisely, 100% post-entry membership agreements. Such agreements do not require job applicants to be union members before joining the firm concerned, and usually don't apply to non-members employed before the agreement is reached.

At Darlington there are a number of non-members, as well as members of a scab organisation, the "Institute of Journalists".

The strike began when the company hired Ms. Josephine Kirk Smith. She had once been a member of the NUJ but now refused to join. The chapel, who claim last year to have reached an informal agreement with their management that all newly employed journalists must join the union, declared a dispute.

For the chapel — and for the Union as a whole — the issue is a simple one. A handful of scabs helping the editor can continue to produce a local paper of sorts during an NUJ strike, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of journalists are out.

The paper is fed a continuous stream of 'raw' news from national wire services, and this can be supplemented with local news from the police and from organisations in the area.

Only a closed shop will give journalists the industrial muscle to halt the paper without the help of the printers — and the print unions nationally are sparing with such assistance. Journalists in an earlier dispute at Kettering were on strike for six months without print union support.

The press proprietors claim that a NUJ closed shop would threaten

'press freedom' or, more precisely, their right to determine without interference what is and what is not printed.

Lord Gibson, Chairman of Darlington's parent company Pearson Longman, is so adamant on this point that he has declared he will resign rather than concede an NUJ closed shop (though closed shops in the print unions don't provoke the same reaction).

"The freedom of the press is threatened by the closed shop policy in that no one body should hold control over who should write and what should be written", says Ms. Kirk Smith. But that's just what happens now — unless you want to claim that newspapers are run democratically, or deny that Pearson Longman own about a third of Britain's newspapers (including all the financial press worth mentioning).

Ms. Kirk Smith goes on to say "The NUJ has already fallen down in its attempts to control the reporting of, for example, racial matters".

In fact the press proprietors are worried about the possibility that journalists, who have direct access to all editorial material, should use industrial strength to break their monopoly over news. And recently some journalists have begun to challenge that monopoly, particularly over race issues.

The Darlington journalists don't yet see things that way. Just before they went on strike they voted down a resolution calling for support for the Campaign Against Racism in the Media; in the majority they still believe that the editor should have total control over content.

But the basic industrial issue is an important one — not just for journalists, either. The Darlington chapel deserve maximum support from all trade unionists, but particularly from members of the NUJ, NGA and NATSOPA. The executive of the NUJ has not yet decided to extend the strike to other papers in the same chain (which includes the Financial Times as well as Penguin Books). They hope to win the strike without extending it beyond Darlington, and the only major spin-off effect so far has been a strike of 13 journalists in London after three of them had been suspended for refusing to send material to Darlington.

After a call from the NUJ, the composers' union NGA has now declared "full support" for the strike, which is a welcome change of heart compared with their attitude over earlier NUJ disputes. Solidarity action by the NGA would halt the paper completely and instantly. But NGA action will only follow if talks this week, led by Bill Keys of SOGAT for the TUC Printing Industries Committee, fail to reach a settlement.

The Darlington NUJ members have themselves called off the weekly mass picketing pending the outcome of these talks. Failing successful negotiations — and this is the almost inevitable outcome — the day of action and mass picket will go ahead.

All trade unionists in the area of Darlington should attend, if possible from 7.00pm at the North of England Newspapers office, Priestgate, Darlington, Friday July 15th. Coaches will probably also be laid on to carry supporters from London, Glasgow, Kettering, Sheffield, Leeds and the North East.

For information, donations and messages of support: NUJ Strike HQ, 7 Victoria Road, Darlington (phone 0325-50282).

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WORKERS IN ACTION

Two Asian night workers sacked asking for "12 hours pay for 12 hours work"

26 workers at Fred Lawton's Wool Mill in Huddersfield have been on strike since June 20th over the sacking of Ifkhar Hussan and Badar Iqbal, who work as twistlers on the night shift.

These night shift workers do a twelve hour shift with only half an hour's break — and this break is taken individually, while the other three workers on a four-man frame have to cover for the man taking his break.

Effectively the output is the same as if there were no break. Yet the men are not paid for the 12 hours' work they do.

The workers are all Asians, and some speak little English. This is used as an excuse to push them around and, in this case, refuse them the full rate.

When the men protested, the manager refused to meet them all together and said he would only talk to individuals in his office. The men refused, but at last agreed to go in pairs.

The very first pair to go in was sacked. So the rest of the night-shift twistlers walked out on strike.

The strike has been made official by the Dyers & Bleachers Union, but about 200 workers are still in the factory and at least 20 of these are union members. The day shift is working as normal, and the spinning and feeding departments on the night shift have not come out. Many fear victimisation if they join the union or strike and they have been threatened with a complete shutdown by the management if the strike is successful.

The pickets have turned some lorries away, but some are still crossing the line. The local T&G have now been contacted to block all Lawton's goods.

The textile industry in Huddersfield relies on the cheap labour of poorly organised and intimidated immigrants and women. This strike can be crucial in encouraging more such workers to stand up against such treatment.

TIM RILEY

NAZI THUG SQUAD ATTACKS DEMO ON 'POLICE MUGGINGS'

Last Saturday, July 2nd, Lewisham and Deptford fascists, reinforced by a Home Counties mobilisation, attacked a socialist demonstration in Lewisham.

The demonstration, which started out 200-strong from New Cross, had been called by the Lewisham 21 Defence Committee, which has been campaigning on behalf of 21 black youths rounded up by police on May 30th in a series of dawn raids. Its main slogan was that the "Police are the real muggers".

But as the march was assembling the National Front were mustering in a nearby pub. And although several were arrested as they left the pub, the rest were left to attack the demonstration. They pelted it with flour bombs, eggs and rotten fruit, and one demonstrator was hit on the head by a bag of caustic soda.

Though the fascists did not outnumber the demonstration, they appeared to be handpicked thugs who had come for a fight. "Some of them were absolutely enormous", one girl remarked afterwards "they really terrified some of the girls on that march".

It has to be said that the march only proceeded under police protection.

Yet the attack should not have been surprising. In Lewisham and nearby Deptford the fascists have the biggest electoral base anywhere, and recently divided up 44% of the local vote between the NF and NP, scoring together more than Labour. Just two weeks ago a street meeting of the Lewisham 21 Defence was set upon violently by fascists.

For all this, the demonstration was totally unprepared for an attack. There wasn't enough stewarding, the march straggled along vaguely, and it seemed that the organisers had literally no idea of what route they were taking.

At one point the march was diverted towards Hilly where the police thought was its destination (as did John Deason, Secretary of the Right to Work Campaign). But it was then re-directed towards Lewisham after a police officer was heard to suggest that it might be better if it kept away from Lewisham.

After a number of incidents along the way with the police (the fascists had departed), in which several people were arrested, the

BE THERE ON JULY 23

IF it hadn't been for the police, the Lewisham 21 Defence demonstration last Saturday would have been very badly mauled by the fascists.

That is a pretty shameful admission — and a bad reflection indeed on the [mainly SWP] organisers, who failed to mobilise properly and whose arrangements for the march were lackadaisical to say the least.

Such a post mortem, however, is only of value if it serves to improve the left's performance in the future.

To their credit, the Defence Committee has called for another march in area for 23rd July. Clearly we cannot allow the fascists to drive us off the streets or to tell us that we cannot defend black youth set up for judicial mugging by the police.

WORKERS ACTION calls for a maximum mobilisation for July 23rd. As well as winning the attendance of the black community, we must try to get Labour Party and trade union delegations to come.

We will be stewarding our own contingent. We call on the SWP organisers to pay more attention to the safety of the march and less to their usual obsessive self-advertisement.

march ended up half a mile from where it had started, to hear speakers from the Defence Committee and Flame say very little either about what militants should do for the campaign or how we should respond to fascist attacks.

THEY GOT THEIR CARDS — STAMPED "UNOFFICIAL STRIKE"

Building workers at A. Roberts, Kennington Lane site (South London) have been out on unofficial strike since April 14th, against the sacking of three steelfixers.

These men were sacked without even the men's shop steward being consulted. Nor were the unions told about it (the steelfixers held joint T&G and UCATT cards).

At first, 100 workers on the site came out in solidarity. Many have now either left or gone back in because of hardship. Local and national conciliation panels have ordered a return to work (with no guarantees of reinstatement) but management has refused point blank to negotiate on the three sackings, and will only agree to even say why the men were sacked after the pickets have returned to work.

After 8 weeks, all the pickets were sacked, and their cards were stamped with the words "Unofficial strike"! UCATT is also putting pressure on the strikers to go back unconditionally.

The strikers' main adversary is the personnel officer for Roberts — Don Speakman, who is also Chief Whip of the Labour Group on Lambeth Council and a member of UCATT! Speakman has crossed the picket line every day, and has personally signed the strikers' redundancy notices.

The Lambeth Labour Group was lobbied by the strikers on Monday July 4th. Roberts was not on the agenda, but after a close vote the steelfixers'

steward Bro. Brooks was given a hearing.

Speakman then made a statement to the Labour Group denying generally the stewards' version of the dispute, and denying in particular all knowledge of the cards being stamped with "Unofficial Strike". He promised to issue the strikers with new cards, if he was approached "through the proper channels".

The fixers have received full support from Lambeth Trades Council, as well as donations and support from other sites in London. The picket line has been honoured by drivers delivering Readymix concrete to the site. And "We will be joining the T&G Region delegation to the Grunwick picket on July 11th", one of the strikers told *Workers Action*.

The pickets feel that Speakman has deliberately provoked and prolonged the strike. Roberts is under contract to build 400 dwellings for Lambeth Council; any delay in completing the job will almost certainly mean extra thousands of pounds of Lambeth rates going into the Company's bank account.

Speakman is a member of Streatham Labour Party and a Vauxhall Councillor. Labour Party members in the borough should demand Speakman's removal from these positions.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to Bro. M. Brooks, 49 Cuddington, Deacon Way, London SE17.

CHEUNG SIU MING (Norwood LP & Lambeth TC)



DAY OF ACTION FOR STEEL SIT-IN

After a march and demonstration from Speakers' Corner, the British Steel Corporation was picketed by 50 supporters of the Greenwich Reinforcement occupation on Tuesday July 5th.

Support for the picket came from the workers' Union, ISTC, from the Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law, and NUPE (the occupation began in May in support of workers victimised for taking part in the NUPE Day of Action against the Cuts on May 11th).

Once in occupation, the workers found that management had been keeping files on selected

militants, with the help of Special Branch and the Economic League — bad enough as things are now, but even more dangerous in a situation where trespass became a criminal offence. This is what CACTL have been campaigning against.

BSC say they'll close down the factory as from July 11th. As their next step in the campaign, the strikers have called a mass meeting for next Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, all messages and donations to: Ron Mitchell, ISTC Branch Sec., 24 Kentmere Road, London SE18.